

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 OPR-02 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 H-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

IO-12 DPW-01 PRS-01 PA-03 RSR-01 (ADP) W

----- 090836

O R 171150 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3639

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

USDAO SAIGON

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECATS BANGKOK

7 ACCS KORAT

56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN

CDR JCRC NKP

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ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2954

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR
DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - APRIL 17

REF: VIENTIANE 2917

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS
REMAINED LIGHT, WITH ONLY ONE MAJOR AND SIX MINOR CLASHES
REPORTED. MOST SERIOUS GROUND ACTION OCCURED IN VICINITY
SALA PHOU KHOUN JUNCTION. RLAF FLEW 20 T-28 SORTIES IN
SAME AREA. WITHDRAWAL AND REGROUPMENT OF FRIENDLY FORCES
IN THA VIANG AREA CONTINUES IN WAKE OF MAJOR NVA ATTACK
12-13 APRIL. POLITICAL - LPF AND RLG NEGOTIATORS RESUMED
PRIVATE MEETINGS ON APRIL 17. PRIMIN' S LAO NEW YEAR
MESSAGE EMPHASIZED HOPE FOR PEACE AND PRESERVATION OF
CEASEFIRE. LPF DEL, LED BY NOUHAH PHOUMSAVAN, ARRIVED IN
PEKING APRIL 16, AFTER THREE- DAY VISIT IN HANOI. END SUMMARY

1. SECTION I - CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE

A. MR I: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED.

B. MR II: ONLY ONE MINOR INCIDENT OCCURED 16 APRIL.
FIRENDLY FORCES IN THA VIANG AREA CONTINUED EFFORTS TO
REGROUP IN AFTERMATH OF NVA ATTACK APRIL 12-13. ONE MINOR,
THIRTY- MINUTE ATTACK AGAINST THREE FRIENDLY POSITIONS 25
KM NORTHWEST OF THA VIANG OCCURED EVENING 15 APRIL, FORCING
FRIENDLIES TO WITHDRAW WITH FOUR WIA. IN RESPONSE TO RLG REQUESTS
USAF FLEW LIMITED NUMBER B-52/ F-11 STRIKES IN THA VIANG AREA 16-17
APRIL.

C. MR III: LATE REPORTS CITE TWO MINOR ENEMY ATTACKS 12-13
APRIL. FIRST WAS BRIEF ATTACK BY NVA PLATOON AGAINST FIRENDLY
COMPANY LOCATED 32 KM EAST OF KENG KOK. ENEMY BORKE CONTACT,
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WITH ONE FRIEND KIA AND TWO ENEMY KIA. SECOND CLASH INVOLVED ATTACK BY ENEMY COMPANY, SUPPORTED BY MORTAR FIRE, ON TWO FRIENDLY PLATOONS LOCATED 9 KM NORTH OF DONG HENE (TWO FRIENDLY CIVILIANS WIA). NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED ON APRIL 16.

D. MR IV: ONLY ONE MINOR INCIDENT REPORTED. DURING AFTER-NOON 15 APRIL, FIRENDLY UNIT LOCATED 29 KM NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE INITIATED MINOR ATTACK AGAINST 10 NVA, WOUNDING TWO. ENEMY BROKE CONTACT (NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES).

E. MR V: ENEMY LAUNCHED THREE ATTACKS-- ONE MAJOR AND TWO MINOR-- AGAINST FRIENDS IN SALA PHOU KHOUN AREA. MAJOR INCIDENT OCCURED (152000 Z) 16 APRIL, WHEN ENEMY FIRED 50 ROUNDS MORTAR FIRE AGAINST FRIENDLY POSITIONS LOCATED AT TG 383573 AND TG 368545, WOUNDING 11 FRIENDS. AT 0520 HOURS, FRIENDLY PATROL, WHICH HAD UNCOVERED SMALL CACHE WEAPONS, AMMO AND FOOD 4 KM NORTH OF SALA PHOU KHOUN, WAS AMBUSHED BY ENEMY, WITH ONE FRIEND WIA. AT 0600 HOURS, TEN- MAN FRIENDLY PATROL WAS AMBUSHED BY ENEMY AS IT MOVED TO RELIEVE FIRST PATROL (6 FRIENDS WIA). RLAF FLEW 20 T-28 SORTIES, ALL IN SALA PHOU KHOUN AREA. (BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT REPORTS INDICATE ONE 122 MM ARTILLERY PIECE DAMAGED; ONE RECOILESS RIFLE DESTROYED; 30 SECONDARY AMMO EXPLOSIONS; NUMEROUS SECONDARY FIRES; AND ONE ENEMY PROBABLY KBA.)

F. COUNT OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: RLG DEFMIN ANNOUNCED 5 ADDITIONAL ENEMY CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, BRINGING TOTAL TO 383 AS OF MORNING 12 APRIL. (COMMENT: OUR COUNT OF GROUND CONTACTS INITIATED BY BOTH SIDES SHOWS 94 MAJOR AND 513 MINOR INCIDENTS THROUGH 11 APRIL. END COMMENT)

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

A. PRIVATE NEGOTIATIONS RESUME - " TUESDAY TALKS" SESSION WAS AGAIN CANCELLED TODAY. HOWEVER , AFTER SEVERAL DAYS BREAK FOR LAO NEW YEAR, LPF AND RLG NEGOTIATORS PHOUN SIPRASEUTH AND NGON SANANIKONE DID, ON APRIL 17, RESUME THEIR PRIVATE NEGOTIATING MEETINGS.

B. PRIMIN' S NEW YEAR' S MESSAGE - PRIMIN' S LAO NEW YEAR MESSAGE OF APRIL 13 EMPHASIZED HOPEFUL PROSPECTS OPENED
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BY CEASEFIRE AND CURRENT TALKS WITH LPF; UNDERSCORED CONVICTION THAT FRAGILE PEACE MUST BE GUARDED; AND APPEALED TO LPF NATIONAL PATRIOTISM. PRIMIN ALSO URGED COUNTRYMEN TO TURN ATTENTIONS TOWARD NEXT ELECTIONS, WHICH WILL

POSE CHOICE BETWEEN TOTALITARIAN AND LIBERAL POLITICAL SYSTEMS. MESSAGE' S THEME OF HOPE FOR PEACE AND PRESERVATION OF CEASEFIRE WAS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH PRIMIN' S APRIL 15 REQUEST FOR USAF AIR SUPPORT IN THA VIANG AREA , WHICH WAS INTENDED TO COMPEL NORTH VIETNAMESE TO ABIDE BY TERMS OF CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT.

C. LPF DELEGATION IN PEKING - ON APRIL 16, SIX- MEMBER LPF DELEGATION, LED BY NOUHAK PHOUMSAVAN, CONCLUDED ITS THREE DAY VISIT IN HANOI AND TRAVELLED TO PEKING ON SECOND LEG OF TOUR OF FRIENDLY SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. PEKING NCNA REPORTS THAT COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER LI HSIEN NIEN, ON APRIL 16, OFFERED ABANQUET IN GREAT HALL OF PEOPLE TO WELCOME LPF DELEGATION, THE FIRST TO VISIT PRC SINCE SIGNING OF FEBRUARY VIENTIANE AGREEMENT.
GODLEY

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JAKARTA
JEC PARIS
MULTIPLE

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